



**SPEECH NOTES BY KWAZULU-NATAL MEC FOR TRANSPORT,
COMMUNITY SAFETY AND LIAISON MR B.H. CELE DURING SOD TURNING
AT NGOLOTSHE – KWANONGOMA ON MONDAY, 20 APRIL 2008**

All Protocol Observed

- We have come here today knowing very well that everyone is now gripped by election fever. But as the voting public, you gave this democratically elected government the mandate to use its budgets to secure equity and the abolition of poverty. This must be done until the last second of the term of this government.
- Our budgets should reach grassroots communities and make a real tangible difference in the lives of poor people - who are our majority citizens and our majority voters.
- As government we will continue to do everything possible to assist our communities in whatever challenges they face in their areas. In fact, as tax payers, it is you who pay for the infrastructure you get.
- Today's sod turning marks the beginning of the construction of the Access Road and the Vehicle Bridge. The estimated cost of the project is more than R8 million. The construction work will involve a substantial financial injection into the area with job opportunities being created for locals.

- The reason for this road is that at present there is no road only a foot path. When it rains the pedestrian including the students are cut off from the Nondumiso High School and the clinic as they have to cross the Mona River to get to these facilities.
- This project is in addition to R1,5 billion the Department of Transport has invested in Zululand to deal with the service delivery challenges during the past five years. Zululand is one of the areas in the province that have been declared as priority areas for service delivery.
- The past five years have seen the Department introducing, among others, Operation Kushunquthuli, Road Safety Education, Siyazenzela Waste Management Programme, Commuter Associations, Transport Academy and the Road Monitoring Programme.
- While the above programmes are running well in other parts of the province, unfortunately the men and women and youth of Nongoma have been deprived of an opportunity of eradicating poverty and putting food on the table.
- Certainly, the leadership of the local authority has kicked out and rejected Siyazenzela Programme after a number of bilateral agreements with the province. Who knows, may be they derive joy from the poverty and unemployment facing communities.

- But what is clear is that job creation opportunities for hundreds of families were compromised to favour party political motives and propaganda.
- I take this opportunity to thank all our stakeholders who have always ensured that we move to the same direction as a transport family since my tenure of office. *Imisebenzi iyabonakala.*
- We will try to address the backlog to the best of our abilities in the spirit of Operation Kushunquthuli and ultimately so that the quality of lives of the people of KwaZulu- Natal is better than yesterday and their tomorrow is better than today.
- Finally, we take this opportunity to congratulate the people KwaZulu-Natal on all the road and bridge projects they have received and yet to receive. The Department of Transport will continue to serve you and ensure that your lives improve.
- Let us go and vote correctly.

I thank you